

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03238 241457Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8931
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN
CINCUSAFE
EUCOM
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

UNCLAS ANKARA 3238

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS TU
SUBJ: CHIEF OF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF AND FOREIGN MINISTER'S
PRESS STATEMENTS ON TURKISH ARMED FORCES

REF: ANKARA 3178

1. ON APRIL 22 AND 23 CHIEF OF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF (TGS)
SEMIH SANCAR AND FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL MADE PRESS
STATEMENTS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO REASSURE PUBLIC CONCERNING
TURKISH ARMED FORCES ABILITY TO WITHSTAND U.S. ARMS EMBARGO.

2. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS FOLLOWING INSPECTION OF FIRST ARMY
UNITS IN ISTANBUL APRIL 22, GENERAL SANCAR PRAISED COMMANDERS'
EFFORTS TO INCREASE UNITS' WAR CAPACITY AND SAID THAT HE WAS
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03238 241457Z

PLEASER WITH CONSTANT STRENGTHENING OF TURKISH ARMED FORCES.

PRESS THEN QUOTED HIM AS SAYING THAT "WE HAVE BEEN LED INTO SERIOUS DOUBLTS BY FACT THAT CERTAIN MEASURES WHICH CURTAIL OUR WAR CAPABILITY HAVE COME FROM A COUNTRY WHICH IS A FRIEND AND AN ALLY." HE SUBSEQUENTLY REFERRED TO DECLINE IN EFFICACY OF TURKISH ARMED FORCES AS A REASON FOR CONCERN BY TURKEY'S ALLIES, NOTING THAT COMPETENT NATO AUTHORITIES HAVE VOICED ANXIETY OVER THIS SEVERAL TIMES. SANCAR ADDED THAT "THIS WRONG DECISION (BY U.S. CONGRESS) SHOULD BE RECTIFIED WITHOUT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN."

3. CAGLAYANGIL DENIED THAT HE TOLD NEW YORK TIMES THAT U.S. EMBARGO HAD RENDERED TURKISH ARMED FORCES UNABLE TO CONDUCT MANEUVERS (REFTEL). HE CLAIMED HE HAD REFERRED TO FACT TURKISH ARMS ARE GEARED TO U.S. STANDARD, NOTED THAT LACK OF SPARE PARTS FOR THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD PREVENT MILITARY MANEUVERS BUT STATED THAT IF EFFORTS TO LIFT EMBARGO WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL, SPARE PARTS NEEDS WOULD BE MET FROM OTHER SOURCES. "EVERYONE KNOWS," HE SAID, "THAT TURKISH ARMED FORCES ARE VERY STRONG."

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Draft Date: 24 APR 1975

Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960

Decapton Note:

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Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

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05 JUL 2006

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